



Department of Energy  
and Climate Change

HM Government

**“Have  
your say”**

**New nuclear  
power stations:  
How sites will  
be chosen and  
how you can  
have your say.**

## “Why is our energy situation changing?”

**Over the next two decades the UK's production of oil and gas will be in decline.**

This means we will need to depend increasingly on imports from Europe and other regions.

**Many of our large coal and nuclear power stations are reaching the end of their working lives.**

By 2023, nine of the ten nuclear power stations that we currently rely on for 15%<sup>1</sup> of our electricity needs are likely to have closed.

**Climate change.** Carbon dioxide is the most common greenhouse gas and most of this comes from the way we produce our energy. To help tackle climate change, the UK has pledged to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 80% by 2050. Before then, we are also committed to reducing emissions by 20% by 2020 (as part of EU wide targets).

<sup>1</sup> Most recent statistics available on the BERR website at [www.berr.gov.uk](http://www.berr.gov.uk) in: *Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics*

## “How can we tackle our new energy challenges?”

The Government’s energy policy is designed to deal with the energy challenges in three main ways.

**1. Energy efficiency.** We all need to save energy – by using less of it and by being more efficient with what we do use. The Government is raising the standards of energy efficiency that buildings and appliances must meet.

**2. Renewable energy.** We are committed to a massive increase in renewable sources of energy. By 2020, 15% of our energy will come from renewable sources such as wind, solar, tidal and others.

**3. A diverse mix of energy sources.** As our own reserves of oil and gas decline, the best way of ensuring our security of supply is by having a diverse mix of different types of low carbon and renewable energy from different suppliers.

And, the Government has reformed the planning system which will help us respond to these energy challenges.

These reforms include creating an independent Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) which will decide on planning applications for projects like nuclear power stations.

Alongside this the Government will be setting out the case for nationally significant infrastructure development in documents called National Policy Statements (NPS). The NPS will guide the IPC when it considers planning applications.

The Nuclear NPS will contain a list of sites that have been assessed by government and which it considers suitable for new nuclear power stations. Developers will be able to make applications to the IPC to develop these sites. Specific planning applications will be considered by the IPC.

**“Why do new nuclear power stations have a **role** to play?”**

**We have had nuclear power stations since the 1950s.**

Nuclear power is a low-carbon form of electricity generation that can help to tackle climate change.

Nuclear power also helps increase our energy security. By having it as part of our energy mix, we become less reliant on types of electricity generation that contribute to climate change and supplies of coal and gas from other countries.

## “What is the Government’s role in **deciding** where new nuclear power stations will be built?”

The Government’s role is not to build or operate new nuclear power stations. The private sector will do this. They will nominate sites for new nuclear power stations which will then be assessed by government.

**Where are the potential locations for new nuclear power stations?** Industry has told the Government that sites near existing nuclear facilities are the best. However, nominations can be put forward for areas that don’t have existing nuclear facilities. Any site can be nominated for a new nuclear power station provided it is up and running by 2025 and meets the conditions set out by government.

The Government will then assess these sites at a strategic level for their suitability against a number of siting criteria. This process is called the ‘Strategic Siting Assessment’ and helps to ensure that potential sites are properly assessed so that only suitable sites are put forward to apply for planning permission. The IPC will decide on specific planning applications on those sites.

Separately, the independent expert regulators are working to assess new nuclear power station designs to make sure that any nuclear power station built in the UK meets the highest standards of safety, security, environmental protection and waste management.

## “What’s the timetable and when can I have my say?”

### **No decisions have been made yet on sites.**

It is important that members of the public and local communities know when and how to have their say. There are several opportunities for you to tell us what you think.

### **Before 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2009**

Nominators must inform local authorities and landowners that they plan to nominate a site. They must also publicise that they plan to nominate a site, e.g. through adverts in local newspapers. The deadline for nominations is 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2009.

### **After 31<sup>ST</sup> March 2009**

Government will publish the nominated sites. **You will have a month to give us your initial comments, prior to consultation later in the year.** Details of how to do this will be on our website.

“Have your say”

### **Summer / autumn 2009**

Government will assess each site to decide if it meets a number of criteria. Sites assessed as suitable will be listed on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement.

The Government will then consult the public on the draft Nuclear National Policy Statement (NPS). You will be able to have your say on the draft list of sites at this point.

**During this consultation you will be able to state your views on sites deemed to be strategically suitable, and on the Nuclear NPS as a whole.**

**“Have your say”**

### **Winter 2009 / Spring 2010**

The consultation will close, and Government will consider the responses received. Parliament will examine the proposals. The draft Nuclear NPS will be amended as needed and the list of sites will be finalised.

### **From 2010**

Developers may apply to the Infrastructure Planning Commission for planning permission for those sites which are found to be strategically suitable in the Nuclear NPS. Before a developer applies for permission it has to consult affected Local Authorities and local communities.

**In addition to this, you will be entitled to submit written evidence to the IPC on the application and you may also be able to speak at particular hearings on a proposal.**

**“Have your say”**

**See the back page of this leaflet for contact details, our web address and how to sign up to our mailing list.**

**“If I need more  
information,  
where do I find it?”**

Find out about new nuclear power stations and how to make your views heard at: [www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk](http://www.nuclearpowersiting.decc.gov.uk)

Find out more about the role of regulators in licensing new nuclear power stations: [www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/index.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/index.htm)

Find out how to save energy yourself at: [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk)

Find out about renewables at: [www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/renewables/index.html](http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/renewables/index.html)

Find out about the Severn tidal feasibility study at: [www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpower](http://www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpower)

Email us if you want to be added to our database so we can update you on developments and nominations received: [nuclearsitingupdate@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nuclearsitingupdate@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

Call us on: **020 7215 3331**

A Welsh version of this leaflet is available on request, please contact: [nuclearsitingupdate@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:nuclearsitingupdate@decc.gsi.gov.uk)